

SUPPORT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORNITHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS FOR THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY DR. ERNST MAYR AND OTHERS FOR THE USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS FOR NOMENCLATORIAL PURPOSES A PAPER CONTAINING NEW NAMES FOR CERTAIN AUSTRALIAN BIRDS PUBLISHED BY FORSTER IN 1794

**Communication received from the
Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the
International Ornithological Congress**

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)494)

Letter dated 4th April 1952 from Colonel R. Meinertzhagen,
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature
of the International Ornithological Congress

On 19th October 1950 I forwarded to you, for favour of decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, an application which had been sent to me, as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, by Dr. Ernst Mayr and others, asking the International Commission to use its plenary powers for the purpose of suppressing, for nomenclatorial purposes, a paper containing new names by J. R. Forster for certain Australian birds published in 1794 in volume 5 of the *Magazin von merkwürdigen neuen Reise Beschreibungen*.

I have now to inform you that the proposals drawn up by Dr. Mayr have since been examined by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, each member of which has signed the attached copy of Dr. Mayr's application. In the name of the Standing Committee (Professor Berlioz, Dr. Stresemann, Dr. Zimmer and myself) I accordingly beg to ask you to inform the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature that the foregoing application has the full support of the Standing Committee.

In the case of the third of the names dealt with in the foregoing application, the International Commission is asked to treat the application as one for the suppression not only of the trivial name *chlorotis* Forster, 1794 (as published in the binominal combination *Muscicapa chlorotis*) but also of the trivial name *novaeollandiae* Latham, 1790 (as published in the binominal combination *Muscicapa novaeollandiae*), since, as explained in the application, the identification by Iredale of Latham's *novaeollandiae* constitutes just as much a threat to the name (*chrysops*) commonly applied to this species as does Forster's name *chlorotis*.

The action which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take is that it should :—

- (1) use its plenary powers to suppress :—
 - (a) the trivial name *elegans* Forster, 1794 (as published in the combination *Motacilla elegans*) for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy ;
 - (b) the under-mentioned trivial names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—
 - (i) *phacus* Forster, 1794 (as published in the combination *Turdus phacus*) ;
 - (ii) *chlorotis* Forster, 1794 (as published in the combination *Muscicapa chlorotis*) ;
 - (iii) *novae-hollandiae* Latham, 1790 (as published in the combination *Muscicapa novae-hollandiae*) ;
- (2) place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *harmonicus* Latham, 1801 (as published in the combination *Turdus harmonicus*) ;
 - (b) *elegans* Gould, 1837 (as published in the combination *Malurus elegans*) ;
 - (c) *chrysops* Latham, 1801 (as published in the combination *Sylvia chrysops*) ;
- (3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the four trivial names specified in (1) above, as there proposed to be suppressed under the plenary powers.